

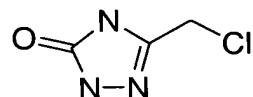
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-41 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 42-61. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

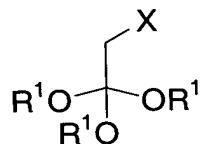
Claims 1-41 (canceled)

42. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound 3-chloromethyl-1,2,4-triazolin-5-one of formula (I):



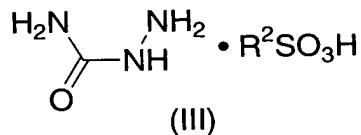
(I)

comprising reacting a triaryl- or trialkyl- orthoester of formula (II):



(II)

wherein X is chloro, and each R¹ independently is independently selected from C₁₋₁₀alkyl, and phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with halo or C₁₋₆alkyl, with a sulfonic acid salt of semicarbazide of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R² is independently selected from C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₁₋₁₀alkylhalo, C₅₋₁₆cycloalkyl, and phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with halo or C₁₋₆alkyl, in an organic solvent, and collecting the compound of formula (I).

43. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R² is methyl.

44. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R² is trifluoromethyl.

45. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R² is camphor-10-yl.

46. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R² is *para*-tolyl.

47. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the organic solvent comprises an alkyl alcohol.

48. (new) The process of Claim 47 wherein the organic solvent comprises methanol.

49. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the orthoester of formula (II), each R¹ is methyl.

50. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the orthoester of formula (II), each R¹ is phenyl.

51. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the reaction temperature is maintained at about 20-70°C.

52. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the reaction temperature is maintained at about 35-45°C.

53. (new) The process of Claim 42 wherein the collection of the compound of formula (I) comprises the steps of:

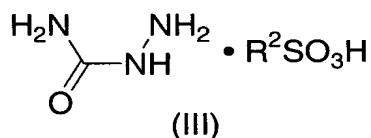
concentrating the reaction mixture,
adding a brine solution to the concentrated reaction mixture,
cooling the mixture to form a solid product,
isolating the solid product,
contacting the solid product with an aqueous acid for about 1-6 hours,
and isolating the compound of formula (I).

54. (new) The process of Claim 53, wherein the brine solution comprises an aqueous sodium chloride solution.

55. (new) The process of Claim 53, wherein the aqueous acid comprises about 0.5 to 5 N hydrochloric acid.

56. (new) The process of Claim 53, wherein the aqueous acid comprises about 0.5 to 5 N trifluoroacetic acid.

57. (new) A substantially pure compound of the formula (III):



wherein R² is independently selected from C₁₋₁₀alkyl, C₁₋₁₀alkylhalo, C₅₋₁₆cycloalkyl, and phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with halo or C₁₋₆alkyl.

58. (new) The compound of Claim 57 wherein R² is methyl.

59. (new) The compound of Claim 57 wherein R² is trifluoromethyl.

60. (new) The compound of Claim 57 wherein R² is camphor-10-yl.

61. (new) The compound of Claim 57 wherein R² is *para*-tolyl.